

**CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MEMORANDUM**

TO: Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee on Integrity and Trust in Local Government

FROM: Edward D. Garza, Mayor of the City of San Antonio

COPIES TO: Lila Cockrell, Chair; Andrew Martin, City Attorney; Terry Brechtel, City Manager

SUBJECT: Charge to the Committee

DATE: October 23, 2002

Thank you for agreeing to serve on the Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee on Integrity and Trust in Local Government. The Committee is charged with providing specific recommendations that correct weaknesses in existing ethics ordinances and codes, with the ultimate goal of strengthening a culture of service, integrity, trust and accountability that instills public confidence. The Committee is not charged with any investigative authority and will not comment or issue findings regarding any specific individuals or alleged misconduct.

I ask that the Committee examine structural and legal issues, both for quick action and for long-term charter or even cultural change. If the Committee is able to recommend any immediate solutions, I would ask that you present a preliminary report as soon as possible. However, the Committee must consider long-range ideas and needs, and provide a schedule for whatever reform process is ultimately recommended. I have consistently advocated the need for reform and I believe that now is our best opportunity for meaningful changes to our system of local governance.

Already I have taken several steps for immediate change:

1. Asked elected officials under indictment to step aside and not take any official action until the investigations are complete
2. Returned campaign contributions received from the tax-collection firm and individuals included in the tax-collection contract investigation
3. Appointed the Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee on Integrity and Trust in Local Government, made up of local government leaders
4. Accentuated positive opportunities for San Antonio

These steps are part of a Nine-Point Action Plan (attached) that I ask the Committee to review and consider. Specifically, I ask that the Committee focus on the following immediate areas of concern:

1. **Impose Campaign Finance Regulations**
2. **Require that elected and appointed officials and staff Document and Disclose Meetings with Lobbyists** (registered and unregistered)
3. **Create and display a "Code of Ethics"** modeled after the Live It! Character Campaign [Integrity, Respect, Dependability, Fairness, Caring, Civic Responsibility]
4. **Establish a permanent line of Open Communication** between local elected officials and local, state and federal **Law Enforcement Agencies** to allow for proactive, preventive measures
5. **Implement and Enforce Rules for City Council Meetings** to foster an environment of respect for elected/appointed officials, staff and the public

The Committee's open and inclusive process will involve the community in reviewing existing and previously proposed local ethics ordinances and other codes that address integrity among local officials. It is critical that the Committee hold hearings in which experts and specialists are asked to present their recommendations, such as the finding of Campaigns for People, an Austin-based advocacy group, and a report on previous ethics efforts from Prof. Vincent Johnson of St. Mary's University.

Again, thank you for your service to your community and I look forward to tremendous results from this Commission.



EDWARD D. GARZA
Mayor

attachment

Mayor's Nine-Point Action Plan
October 23, 2002

1. Ask **Elected Officials under Indictment** to step aside and not take any official action until the investigations are complete
2. **Return Campaign Contributions** received from the tax-collection firm and individuals included in the tax-collection contract investigation
3. Appoint the **Mayor's Ad Hoc Committee on Integrity and Trust in Local Government**, made up of local government leaders
4. Accentuate **Positive Opportunities for San Antonio**
5. Impose **Campaign Finance Regulations**
6. Require that elected and appointed officials and staff **Document and Disclose Meetings with Lobbyists** (registered and unregistered)
7. Create and display a "**Code of Ethics**" modeled after the Live It! Character Campaign [Integrity, Respect, Dependability, Fairness, Caring, Civic Responsibility]
8. Establish a permanent line of **Open Communication** between local elected officials and local, state and federal **Law Enforcement Agencies** to allow for proactive, preventive measures
9. **Implement and Enforce Rules for City Council Meetings** to foster an environment of respect for elected/appointed officials, staff and the public